



## Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact [support@jstor.org](mailto:support@jstor.org).

independent of, and in some cases antedated, the national regulation of manufactures; "Colbert n'inventa rien," he says in this connection. Mathieu contributes notes on industry in Limousin, chiefly when Turgot was the *intendant* of the province; and Hayem writes on strikes of the sixteenth and eighteenth centuries, and on French commerce in the Mediterranean during the latter part of the seventeenth century. This last essay is another blow to Colbert's reputation, for Hayem uses the archives of foreign relations to prove, against Masson's view, that the Mediterranean commerce of the French at the time was burdened with unusual difficulties and restrictions. Short articles cover a Brazilian festival celebrated at Rouen in 1550, and an interesting code of regulations adopted in a Parisian jewelry factory in 1809, and published here in facsimile. The longest single text printed is Bignon's memoir of 1698 on Picardy; and even of this the editor has wisely chosen to reproduce in its entirety only the portion describing the manufactures of the province, printing Boulainvilliers' summary of the remainder.

There is an intimation in the preface of the volume that it may be followed by others of a similar character; any student of modern economic history who reads the book and realizes the value of its contents will certainly hope that this may be the case.

CLIVE DAY.

*Yale University.*

*Die Juden und das Wirtschaftsleben.* By WERNER SOMBART.  
(Leipzig: Duncker und Humblot. 1911. Pp. xxvi, 476.  
9 m.)

This is a very important work, and one which no student of Jewish history or of economic history in general can afford to ignore. The position, attainments and anti-Jewish leanings of the writer (the latter being obvious in some unsympathetic chapters in this very work) command for his conclusions not merely careful consideration, but a large measure of acceptance, for they are based upon a thorough study of hundreds of specialized, little-known books and monographs in almost every language. The author explains that he came to write this work because, when undertaking the preparation of a new edition of his "Modern Capitalism," he became convinced that Jewish participation in

the development of modern economic society was much greater than had been imagined; and, as this subject had never therefore been adequately treated, he devoted two years of his time to a study of sources and of the disjointed monographs referred to, followed by the preparation of the present work, as a preliminary to resumption of his main work. He identifies the geographical dispersion of the Jews through Europe and America, beginning with their expulsion from Spain in 1492, with the economic fate of the different countries and cities involved; and points out that the abrupt decline of Spain, the sudden development of Holland, the decline of so many cities of Italy and Germany, and the development of others, such as Leghorn, Lyons (transitionally), Antwerp (transitionally), Amsterdam, Hamburg, London, Frankfurt and the American colonies cannot be sufficiently accounted for by the heretofore accepted explanations of the discovery of the sea-route to the Indies and the transfer of governmental power and the like. He consequently proceeds to demonstrate by a mass of proof (often contemporary sixteenth and seventeenth century documents) that these resulted in large part from the settlement of Jews there. He points out that, much as has been written about the Jews, on the most important question, their position in economic history, scarcely anything of prime importance has been said, for neither modern capitalism nor modern culture would have developed without the dispersion of the Jews among the northerly countries of the world. On the other hand, he contends that in the most recent period their commercial importance has commenced to wane. It is, of course, impossible to enumerate here even a few of the hundreds of incidents in varying fields that Professor Sombart has marshalled together to prove his thesis; he goes into details, equipped with an unsurpassed, though somewhat colored knowledge of economic history in general, with the help of which he gauges the various Jewish items he relies upon, though throughout he admits that specialized studies should be pursued to fill in the pages which he has only outlined.

Particularly interesting is his sketch of the commercial development of the various modern centers of commercial activity and Jewish participation therein, his outline of Jewish command of the various lines of trade in the sixteenth and seventeenth cen-

turies, his studies of Jews as royal contractors and financiers, and the share of the Jews in introducing and developing negotiable paper, corporate shares of stock and bonds, public and private, and trade therein, and in founding stock and other exchanges, as well as the economic point of view, all of which are today fundamental for our economic society. Naturally enough, the defender of such thesis—despite his denial that he has written a thesis—is bound to exaggerate the influence he outlines, ignores other important factors, is often misled by inaccurate “authorities” which he relies upon, and occasionally fails to view particular incidents in their right proportions and perspective. In fact, probably the weakest portion of the book is that dealing with contemporary American conditions, while Russia, which contains more than half the Jewish population of the world, and whose history does not confirm his theories, is almost wholly ignored. But these circumstances, after all, do not detract materially from his general conclusions.

As a treatment of the subject indicated by its title, the work is incomplete, treating in substance only of the last three or four centuries, which are the important ones in Professor Sombart's theories as to the development of capitalism. In consequence, probably, he does not even cite Roscher's masterly little essay, dealing with the important earlier period, “Die Juden im Mittelalter” in *Ansichten der Volkswirtschaft* (II, 321-354; 1878), nor Professor Gross' very able study “Exchequer of the Jews of England in the Middle Ages” (*Papers Anglo-Jew, Hist. Exhibition, 1887*), nor even (except on a side point) Caro's recent scholarly work *Sozial- und Wirtschaftsgeschichte der Juden* (1908), of which only Volume I, dealing with the “Early and Middle Ages,” has thus far appeared. It is regrettable that these works are either not available at all to the student reading English only, or are almost inaccessible.

By far the best portion of Professor Sombart's work is the first section (pp. 3-182), treating of the “Part of the Jews in the Development of Economic Society.” His second section (pp. 183-336), dealing with the “Qualifications of the Jews for Capitalism,” is not only less valuable, but goes so far afield as to devote some seventy pages to an unsympathetic and very one-sided speculation concerning the “Significance of the Jewish Re-

ligion for Economics," while the last section (pp. 337-437) contains some unprofitable, remote theorizing of doubtful correctness and somewhat contradictory of the earlier sections, concerning the Jews as a race. The book contains 30 pages of bibliographical notes, citing authorities for all the author's statements, and convenient headings, rendering his enormous research along unbeaten tracks readily available to other students. The style is animated and interesting.

MAX J. KOHLER.

*New York.*

*The First Book of World Law. A Compilation of the International Conventions to which the Principal Nations are Signatory, with a Survey of their Significance.* By RAYMOND L. BRIDGMAN. Published for the World Peace Foundation. (Boston: Ginn and Company. 1911. Pp. iv, 308. \$1.65.)

This book is a successor to the author's previously published small volume entitled *World Organization*, which supports the thesis that a declaration of principles implying world organization and involving the beginnings of an actual world government with a legislative, judicial and executive department, has already been made. In the present volume, these ideas are further elaborated.

The world legislature which has been inaugurated with the Hague conference was foreshadowed by treaty-making powers such as negotiated the peace of Westphalia in 1643, the treaty of Utrecht in 1713, the Treaty of Paris in 1763, and the Congress of Vienna in 1815. World law consists of agreements and conventions formulated by representatives of sovereign states and the beginnings of a world executive are discovered in the officials appointed to carry out such conventions as are made through international agreement. The best example of a world executive instanced is that of the permanent secretary at Bern, Switzerland, of the Universal Postal Union. The beginnings of a world court are considered as having been definitely made by the Hague conference, the first of which established the Hague court of arbitration, and more especially by the second Hague conference, which established an international prize court, "which promises to be the historical germ of the world's judiciary."